

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

GENEVA FOR USDEL MTN

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, US, JA, ETRD, MTN
SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, MAY 2, 1978: MTN

1. DURING THEIR MAY 2 COUNCIL MEETING, THE EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS RECEIVED A REPORT FROM EC COMMISSION VICE
PRESIDENT HAFERKAMP ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE MTN.
COMMISSION AND PERMREP OFFICIALS TELL US THAT HAFERKAMP'S
REMARKS CONTAINED NO SURPRISES AND THAT THE COUNCIL DID
NOT, IN ANY CASE, ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF MTN
ISSUES.

2. ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, HAFERKAMP
OPENED HIS PRESENTATION BY REVIEWING THE OUTCOME OF HIS
APRIL 10 MEETING WITH STR STRAUSS AND JAPANESE EXTERNAL
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TRADE MINISTER USHIBA. HE ALSO BRIEFED THE MINISTERS
ON THE EC REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE U.S. AND
JAPANESE OFFERS AND ON THE EC'S PRESENTING A LIST OF
POSSIBLE WITHDRAWALS FROM ITS OWN OFFER. HE SAID THAT
COMMUNITY NEGOTIATORS ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN GETTING
THE U.S. AND JAPAN TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF SELECTIVITY
ON SAFEGUARDS. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HOPES THE U.S.

WILL ACCEPT THE IDEA OF PUTTING THE IDEA OF MATERIAL INJURY INTO ITS OWN LEGISLATION ON COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE NOTED THAT THE EC WILL NOW CONCENTRATE ON OBTAINING A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME ON SUBSIDIES. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THERE WAS NO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF HAFERKAMP'S REMARKS AND THAT THE MINISTERS AGREED TO HOLD A SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON THE MTN AT THEIR JUNE 6 COUNCIL MEETING, IN PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE COMMISSION SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT THE UK AND GERMANY RAISED THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE EC ON VAT EXPORT REBATES, ASKING THAT THE COMMISSION CONTINUE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE PROBLEM. THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED TO REPORTERS THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS ITSELF OPPOSED TO THE IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON VAT EXPORT REBATES BUT THAT THE USG WILL BE BOUND BY COURT DECISIONS IN THIS MATTER.

4. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT THE COUNCIL TOOK NOTE OF THE DIFFICULTIES POSED FOR THE MTN THROUGH THE SUSPENSION, UNTIL SEPTEMBER, OF EFFORTS TO RENEW THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT IN THE UNCTAD FRAMEWORK. HINTON

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